

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 /057 W

-----027087 211431Z /53

R 211354Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1677 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0271

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS

SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA FISHERIES TRADE MISSION TO EUROPE

1. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL FISHERIES MINISTER DAN REID, A 10-MEMBER NOVA SCOTIA FISHERIES TRADE MISSION VISITED WEST GERMANY, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, USSR, AND FINLAND DURING JUNE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATIVE FISHING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE NOVA SCOTIA FISHING INDUSTRY AND THE FISHING INDUSTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE PUBLICITY EMANATING FROM THE NOVA SCOTIA DEPT OF FISHERIES CALLED THE TRADE MISSION A GREAT SUCCESS WITH RESPECT TO ITS TWO MAIN AIMS, VIZ., ASSESSING DEGREE OF INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES AND EXAMINING MARKET POTENTIAL IN THE COUNTRIES VISITED.

2. ACCORDING TO FISHERIES MINISTER REID, COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES ARE THE "ONLY WAY" FOR NOVA SCOTIA TO PROCEED IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE 200-MILE FISHING ZONE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS CANADA BUILDS UP ITS OWN CAPABILITY TO HARVEST AND PROCESS FISH STOCKS. FEDERAL FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LE BLANC, HOWEVER, VIEWED THE FINDINGS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE TRADE MISSION

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WITH SOMETHING LESS THAN UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM. NOTING THAT VERY FEW COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FISHERY HAVE BEEN APPROVED THUS FAR BY THE GOC, LE BLANC STRESSED THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY AS HE SAW IT WAS THE RESTORATION OF FISH STOCKS IN THE OVER-FISHED 200- MILE ZONE. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS UNCONVINCED THAT JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN NOVA SCOTIA

AND THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE GENUINELY BENEFICIAL
TO THE PROVINCE.

3. COMMENT. IT WAS THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHING INDUSTRY
WHICH FIRST GOT BITTEN BY THE JOINT VENTURE BUG, AND NOW
IT S NOVA SCOTIA S TURN. THE ATTRACTION OF THE JOINT
VENTURE IDEA IS OBVIOUS: IT IS A WAY OF GETTING A SPEEDY
PAYOFF ON THE 200-MILE ZONE, EVEN BEFORE FISH STOCKS
REBUILD. THE DANGERS, OF COURSE, WHICH SEEM TO DETER
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MORE THAN THEY DO THE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA RE
TWOFOOLD. FIRST OF ALL THERE IS THE DANGER THAT,
IN THEIR DESIRE TO MAXIMIZE THEIR REVENUES
IN JOINT VENTURES, THE PROVINCES AND THEIR FISHING
PARTNERS MIGHT PUT TOO GREAT A STRAIN ON FISH STOCKS
AND EITHER SLOW OR PREVENT THEIR REBUILDING. SECONDLY,
COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES WITH FOREIGN INTERESTS,
LIKE THE CAMEL WITH HIS NOSE UNDER THE TENT, MIGHT
PROVE TO BE THE THIN EDGE OF THE WEDGE (TO MIX A
METAPHOR) AND MIGHT PROVE VERY DIFFICULT TO TERMINATE.
END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, TRADE, REPORTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HALIFA00271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0359
Format: TEL
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770636/aaaabfor.tel
Line Count: 90
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79556479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2085764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVA SCOTIA FISHERIES TRADE MISSION TO EUROPE
TAGS: EFIS, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79556479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009